



Public Health Administration

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT URGES THE COMMUNITY TO PREPARE FOR COVID-19

BUTTE COUNTY, Calif. – Butte County Public Health (BCPH) urges the community to prepare **now** for local cases of COVID-19 and the possibility of community spread. As of today, Butte County remains at zero cases of lab confirmed COVID-19, but anticipates cases to be likely. Households, schools, businesses, event organizers and healthcare facilities should review recent guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and take immediate steps to help limit and slow the spread of illness.

“There is no question that we will get cases of lab confirmed COVID-19,” said Butte County Health Officer Dr. Andy Miller. “Everyone has a role to play in getting ready and staying healthy.”

Dr. Miller is asking all community sectors to review and implement COVID-19 prevention guidance now, including all:

- Households
- Schools
- Institutions of higher education
- Event organizers
- Nursing homes
- Healthcare providers
- EMS and First Responders
- Employers

The public can review the guidance documents issued by CDPH and CDC:

- COVID-19 Guidance Documents issued by CDPH:
www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx
- COVID-19 Guidance Documents issued by CDC:
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community

COVID-19 guidance issued by CDPH, in addition to the local situation in Butte County, will help BCPH make an informed decision about social distancing actions should that be necessary. Social distancing actions could include:

- School closures
- Restrictions on mass gatherings and events
- Restrictions on visitors to healthcare facilities
- Working from home/telework
- Increased self-quarantine
- Any other actions to reduce close, sustained contact with groups of people

BCPH’s staff will continue to provide updated information about COVID-19 to schools, businesses and healthcare providers, as well as the general public.

Butte County residents who are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19 should take steps to reduce their risk. This includes:

- Older adults
- Individuals with compromised immune systems
- Individuals with serious chronic medical conditions like: heart disease, diabetes and lung disease

If you are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19, in addition to good hygiene, it's important to take actions to reduce your risk of getting sick, including:

- Avoid close contact with sick people and stay away from large gatherings and crowds.
- Stay home as much as possible. Consider ways of getting food brought to your house through family, social or commercial networks.

How Can People Protect Themselves:

The best way to prevent the spread of illness, including: seasonal flu, novel coronavirus and other respiratory illness is to practice everyday illness prevention steps:

- Washing hands with soap and water.
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.
- **Staying home if you are sick**, especially from work, school and public places.
- Following guidance from public health officials.

What to Do if You Think You're Sick:

Call ahead: If you develop a fever, cough and shortness of breath and believe you could have COVID-19, notify your healthcare provider by phone. Call ahead so that you can be safely evaluated to prevent exposing others.

Always check with trusted sources for the latest accurate information about novel coronavirus:

- [Butte County Public Health](#)
- [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#)
- [The Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- Butte County residents call also call 2-1-1 or text your zip code to 898211 for COVID-19 information and updates.

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